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### REMARKS

Claim 1 and 9 are pending in the subject application. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the present specification, claims, and drawings as filed, e.g., at the paragraph bridging pages 37-38. Accordingly, after entry of this amendment, the pending claims will be claims 1 and 9. No new matter has been added.

The amendments to the claims are being made for the purpose of expediting prosecution and are made without prejudice or waiver. Applicants reserve the right to present the original or previously-pending claims in this or a continuing application.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application. The Applicants, however, respectfully request reconsideration of the subject application based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

#### Requirement for New Drawings

In the Office Action at Section 5, the Examiner stated that new drawings are required. However, in a brief telephone interview on April 12, 2006 with Applicants' undersigned representative, the Examiner agreed that the previously-submitted drawings were acceptable and that no new drawings are required. Applicants would appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment that the drawings are acceptable in the next Office Action or Notice of Allowance.

Applicants point out that the arrangement of Fig. 11 of the present application is shown in Fig. 4 and described at paragraphs [0016] and [0017] of the Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication JP-A 8-88762 (1996) and the arrangement of Fig. 12 of the present application is shown in Fig. 14 and paragraphs [0074] to [0077] of the Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication JP-A 7-302073 (1995).

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Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner has again rejected claims 1 and 9 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,486,971 to Kawamoto ("Kawamoto" or the "Kawamoto Reference"). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the above amendments and for reasons detailed below.

As Applicants understand the reference, Kawamoto discloses an apparatus in which the first and second first enlarging/reducing process devices (53a and 53b of Figs. 6 and 7) each include a FIFO memory 63. The first enlarging/reducing process device 53a and the second enlarging/reducing process device 53b are disclosed in Figs. 3 and 4 of Kawamoto. Because each of the enlarging/reducing process devices (53a and 53b) is provided with a FIFO memory 63, two FIFO memories are required in the apparatus of Kawamoto. Thus, Kawamoto cannot teach or suggest the apparatus of the present invention having a single FIFO memory, e.g., as illustrated in Fig. 5 of the present specification.

Furthermore, while Kawamoto shows (e.g., in Fig. 5 thereof) that a single enlarging/reducing process device is provided, and a single FIFO memory is provided, Kawamoto fails to disclose that the enlarging variable magnification unit and the reducing variable magnification unit are constituted by separate units, e.g., as shown in Fig. 5 of the present specification.

Still further, in Figs. 3 to 5 of Kawamoto, the enlarging/reducing process device is connected to the memory device 35 via the memory I/F 54. However, Kawamoto does not disclose the constitution of the memory device 35, and Kawamoto does not teach or suggest that the memory device of Figs. 3-5 is constituted by a FIFO memory.

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that Kawamoto cannot anticipate (nor render obvious) the present invention as claimed in claim 1 (as amended), in which, *inter alia*, an image processing apparatus includes a single first-in, first-out memory for carrying out write/read processing of image data;

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and the enlarging variable magnification unit and the reducing variable magnification unit are separate units.

As to pending claim 9, Applicants contend that the Kawamoto reference does not disclose each and every element of the claim, and therefore does not anticipate claim 9. Kawamoto provides (e.g., at column 5, line 66, through column 6, line 2) that the magnification ratio for the main scanning direction is enlarged and reduced by the enlarging/reducing process devices 53a and 53b. Thus, the image data subjected to variable-magnification processing is sent to the printer control device 36, which controls the LED writing head 37. That is, in Kawamoto, the printer control device 36 only controls the LED writing head 37 on the basis of the image data subjected to enlarging/reducing processing to print the enlarged/reduced image data. The variable-magnification processing is not carried out by the printer control device 36 according to Kawamoto. Therefore, Kawamoto does not disclose variable-magnification processing of the data from the FIFO line memory by increasing and decreasing a number of on/off of the gates by the variable-magnification processing means, as claimed in pending claim 9.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants contend that reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is proper and the same is requested.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner appears to take the position that the present specification does not provide enablement for an embodiment of the invention in which a read signal for the FIFO memory is started earlier than the write signal.

Applicants respectfully disagree. As the Examiner has noted, the instant specification, e.g., at page 40, lines 13-22, provides clear support for the claimed aspect of the invention. Although the Examiner states that "this portion of the

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Specification apparently does not and cannot be applied to figs. 4-6," Applicants contend that one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to make and use the invention as claimed based on the teachings of the cited portions of the specification and the specification as a whole.

Moreover, Applicants note that the language to which the Examiner points no longer appears in claim 1 (as amended herein); new claim 13 is now directed to this embodiment of the invention.

#### Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 9 for alleged informalities.

At lines 3 and 10, the Examiner suggested that "image data" should be "the image data." While Applicants respectfully contend that the claim was clear as previously pending, to expedite prosecution the claim has been amended as suggested.

At line 13, the Examiner suggested that a new line should start after "ration [sic]". Solely to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended the claim as suggested.

In the last line of claim 9, the phrase "the plurality of image forming means" has clear antecedent basis in the recitation, at line 4 of claim 9, of "a plurality of image forming means." Applicants therefore contend that no correction is or should be required.

#### **CONCLUSION**

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

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Applicants conditionally petition for a further extension of time to provide for the possibility that such a petition has been inadvertently overlooked and is required. As provided below, charge Deposit Account **04-1105** for any required fee.

The Applicants believe that no additional fee is required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason the fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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